

A joyful moment



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Sergeant Mark Hopkins, a parole/probation agent from Emmet County, is currently serving in Iraq. Hopkins wanted to share some of the positive moments of his deployment and managed to do that with this recent photo. Here he is surrounded by some joyful Iraqi children. He expects to return to Fort Campbell soon and be back at home in June or July. **F.Y.I.**

DOC employees support our troops

Every day MDOC staff offer support to our troops serving in Operation Enduring Freedom. This support is essential because for those deployed soldiers, the difficulties must sometimes seem overwhelming. Not only are they in harm's way every moment of the day, but they have to deal with the inevitable snafus and questions that arise regarding pay-checks and money matters and the other endless details that are inherent to everyday life back home.

Sometimes in the course of just doing their jobs, staff members go out of their way and take just a little more time and effort to make things easier for someone else. Alycia McIntyre-Johnson, PMA Human Resources, at the Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center is just one of those people.

McIntyre-Johnson has been processing Sgt. Linda Prewitt's, RUO Southern Michigan Correctional Facility, military leave. Prewitt is currently serving in Iraq and had some paperwork and questions that needed attention. McIntyre-Johnson along with her co-workers Jessie Worthey and Sandi Querbach garnered some praise via e-mail from Sgt. Prewitt. Here are some excerpts from that e-mail.

"Thanks for taking my call a couple of days ago and helping me out. I just wanted to say thank you for all your help since the day I got deployed. But saying thank you just did not seem like it was the right thing. You and Ms. Jessie and Ms. Sandi have made this deployment easy for me and my family. I think this is what the President meant by supporting our troops. You ladies did your best to make sure that I understood, before I left home, how my pay and my leave would work and that I would be covered. And, of course, I would still e-mail you with a question on my pay or my time and come morning there would be an answer from Alycia, explaining it again. No matter what the question was, or if I just thought I had no one else I could write to, I could write Alycia, and tell her what Uzbekistan was like—the stars at night, no rain for months and what walking on rocks was like. She would always answer by morning.

I think if President Bush knew this, he would give you a medal for reaching out to one of his soldiers and offering words of comfort. But since he does not know, it's up to me. I felt like you ladies should have something to remember this deployment by. You have been there from the beginning of this deployment for me. I hope you ladies will accept my gift with the same love and kindness in which I offer them from Operation Enduring Freedom."

—Sgt. Prewitt

Sgt. Prewitt wanted the staff to have something to remember her deployment and along with that e-mail message sent the staff some gifts from Iraq.

"This was truly an outstanding gesture on the part of Sgt. Prewitt. I want to commend the staff at Egeler for the fine job they have done," said Debra Whipple, State Administrative Manager.

Sgt. Prewitt's message is one that every American can take to heart. As she is unselfishly serving her country, she has taken the time and initiative to show her appreciation for some excellent work and an act of kindness from her co-workers.

"Alycia McIntyre-Johnson, Jessie Worthey and Sandi Querbach along with Sgt. Prewitt all exemplify the spirit of DOC staff. In addition, each of these women provides an example of professionalism and selflessness that we should all strive to achieve," Director Patricia L. Caruso said. [F.Y.I.](#)

Wheels for Wishes plaque goes to Director Caruso



Jai Deagan presents a plaque from the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation to Director Patricia L. Caruso.

The Wheels for Wishes charity is a group of MDOC motorcycle enthusiasts who sponsor a yearly charity ride in Clare on the third Saturday of July each year. This year's ride will be on July 17 for the Lower Peninsula and on August 14 for the Upper Peninsula. The 2004 MDOC Wheels for Wishes ride invites motorcycle riding employees and friends to participate in this year's charity ride.

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation will again receive 100 percent of the money raised by Wheels for Wishes at their Ride for Kids on August 29, 2004 in Ann Arbor. As in the past, children who benefit from the funds raised will be on hand at the ride in Ann Arbor.

To again allow more people a chance to become involved, Wheels for Wishes is collecting \$1 and a signature to present to the children who have benefited in the past from the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Information regarding the Dollar Club was recently mailed to all facilities and FOA regions.

For more information, please contact a team captain or Tim Jelenek at 989-539-2458 or Jai Deagan at 517-334-6686. Volunteers from facilities around the state are welcome and needed.

Team captains include: J.W. Clark, Parr Highway Correctional Facility; Jerry Hill, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility; Mike Hiroskey, Macomb Correctional Facility; Tom Pietrangelo, Straits Correctional Facility; Greg Priestley, Newberry Correctional Facility and Dan Rice, Mid-Michigan Correctional Facility **7.7.7.**

Personal sacrifice for a good cause—Special Olympics

RUO George Bennett, of the Chippewa Correctional Facility, will do whatever he can to support a good cause. This year, RUO Bennett let his hair grow longer than normal for an ex-military personnel who usually keeps his hair short.

RUO Bennett's supervisor asked him if he would be willing to braid his hair as a fundraiser for Special Olympics. He accepted the challenge and staff responded by donating \$308 for Special Olympics. RUO Bennett had his hair braided courtesy of a local hair dresser. **7.7.7.**



Valarie Russell Memorial Golf Outing

The second annual Valarie Russell Memorial Golf Outing to benefit former DOC employee Valarie Russell's Memorial Fund is scheduled for August 20, 2004 at the Lakeland Hills Golf Course in Michigan Center, Michigan.

The four person scramble has an 8:45 a.m. shotgun start. The cost is \$184 for a four-person team which covers green fees, cart, food and pop/water along with a \$20 donation to the Valarie Russell Memorial Fund.

To sign up, contact Tracy Crawford at 517-780-6936 or Kevin Lindsey at 517-780-6835 by August 2, 2004. **7.7.7.**

Citizenship award goes to Officer Jamie Jorns



C/O Jorns (left) receives his award from RPA James MacMeekin.

Corrections Officer Jamie Jorns was awarded the department's Citizenship Award for his actions taken in assisting two injured fellow staff members.

While on their way to work, RUO Barry Woods and RUO Debra Savoie were involved in a head on collision with an on coming vehicle that



RUO Debra Savoie, C/O Jamie Jorns and RUO Barry Woods

crossed over the center line. Soon after the accident happened fellow Officer Jorns arrived at the scene.

He administered first aide to the injured employees and assisted in comforting them until advanced life support arrived. Both staff members sustained serious injuries and were off work for a lengthy period of time. They have both since returned to work. *F.Y.I.*

Fight against cancer

March was National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. DOC Central Office staff is joining the fight against cancer by earmarking March and April casual day donations for the American Cancer Society.

A blue star has been introduced by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (NCCRT) as a symbol of the fight against colon cancer. The disease takes more than 56,000 lives each year—more than breast or prostate cancer—despite the widely available tests that can find and cure the disease before it has advanced.

“Colorectal cancer is completely preventable through early screening, and the key to reducing colorectal cancer is simply increasing awareness of the need to screen. The new blue star symbol will serve as a reminder of the importance of colon cancer screening and show that people who have been touched by the disease are not alone,” Dr. Robert Smith, NCCRT Co-chairman said. *F.Y.I.*

Habitat for Humanity and Prison Build team up on a new project

Habitat for Humanity of Michigan (HFHM) and the Prison Build Program are once again joining forces to assist Michigan residents in reaching their goal of homeownership by holding a tools fundraiser at their 2004 Banquet.



Inmates at the Mid-Michigan Correctional Facility have designed and built an assortment of hand-made toys that will be for sale at HFHM's annual banquet April 20, 2004.

Proceeds of the sale will go to fund HFHM's Prison Build Program which provides panelized stud walls, finished kitchen and bath cabinets and sheds for Habitat homes. The funds will be used to keep the tools used for these projects in proper working order including the saw blades and router bits.

The toys, handcrafted from various scraps of wood, consist of boats, planes and trucks along with some birdhouses.

"The toy program has been going on for a number of years," said Mid-Michigan Correctional Facility Warden Paul Renico. "We use the scrap ends of two by fours and other construction material rather than throw them out."

Most of the scraps come from the Habitat program but the program also receives donations from different sources. The City of Mt. Pleasant recently donated 100-year-old white oak from a fence they were demolishing according to Warden Renico.

The Mid-Michigan Correctional Facility is part of the Prison Build Program. Inmates are instructed in the building trades and have assisted in building more than 100 Habitat homes. The Prison Build Program builds pre-fabricated products which can reduce building time and get the house enclosed in a shorter period of time. Quality wood cabinets are provided less expensively than lesser quality cabinets can be purchased commercially. This enhances not only the value of the home today but also the long-term value.

A grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) funds the materials for stud walls. Since the Michigan Army National Guard Transportation units have been deployed to the Middle East, MSHDA grant monies will also be used to cover transportation of the wall sets to the build sites. Local Habitat affiliates pay for the materials used to build the cabinets and sheds. The affiliates also arrange the pickup and delivery of those items.



Beyond the obvious value to Habitat affiliates and homeowners are the benefits to the community at large. Inmates participate in this program as part of an education program. They learn a marketable skill that will help them reintegrate and become a contributing member of the community when they are released.

"I encourage this program because it keeps the inmates productively occupied and using a skill. They're making something worthwhile and when we donate that to a charity it benefits society as well. This is a fantastic

opportunity for these inmates to learn the kind of skills they can take back to the community. We have a talented staff and skilled prisoners who work as tutors," said Warden Renico.

Toys made by prisoners have also been donated for silent auctions that benefit Relay for Life and Special Olympics. [f.y.i.](#)



Corrections budget now goes to House

A few weeks ago, Governor Jennifer Granholm prepared a budget for Fiscal Year 2005 which runs from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005. The Governor's budget recommendation is just the first step in the budget process which can be a lengthy, complicated series of events.

The Governor's budget proposed a total of \$1.8 billion for the Department of Corrections. The Senate amended and passed the budget. The Senate amendment cuts \$20 million from corrections funding. The bill now goes to the House for their review where the money could possibly be restored. Remember, the budget is still a long way from being approved. This information is intended to keep you informed as the budget progresses. It is not the final budget. Watch for continued updates in [7.4.1](#).

The proposed \$20 million cut in the original \$1.8 billion corrections budget as proposed by Governor Granholm includes the following cuts:

- ❑ \$5.2 million in prisoner substance abuse treatment and testing
- ❑ \$5.9 million reduction in Hepatitis C treatment
- ❑ \$5 million in a reduction of academic and vocational training for inmates
- ❑ \$2 million in transportation efficiencies
- ❑ \$1.5 million reduction in Department of Information Technology development
- ❑ \$.4 million in administrative efficiencies [7.4.1](#).

How the budget bill becomes law

This year, Governor Granholm's corrections budget recommendation was submitted to the Senate. Next year it will go to the House first, alternating each fiscal year. Following is an explanation of the budget process. The corrections budget is currently at the point indicated by the arrow. ➡

■ The Senate receives the proposal from the Governor and refers it to the Senate Appropriations Committee who assigns it to the Senate Subcommittee on Judiciary and Corrections. The subcommittee makes any changes or recommendations it deems appropriate and then sends it back to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Corrections staff attends all meetings and could be called upon to testify or answer questions on the impact of budgetary changes on the corrections system. Members of the public are also allowed to testify.

■ The Appropriations Committee reviews the recommendations of the subcommittee, may make changes and reports that bill to the full Senate.

■ Once the bill is on the Senate floor, it is debated by the full Senate where it will be amended and passed or passed as reported.

➡ After passage by the Senate, the budget bill goes to the House of Representatives. The House assigns it to the House Subcommittee on Corrections.

■ The subcommittee makes any changes and refers the bill to the House Appropriations Committee where it can again be amended.

■ The bill is then reported to the House floor. Representatives vote and the bill is passed as is or amended and passed.

■ If the House bill is different from the Senate version of the bill, it is sent back to the Senate for concurrence. If the Senate agrees with the changes or concurs, the bill is sent to the Governor.

■ If the bill is rejected by the Senate, it goes to a Conference Committee which is made up of three members from each chamber. The Conference Committee then resolves any points of difference between the House and Senate.

■ The Conference Committee report will go to the Senate and, if it is adopted, the report and the bill go to the House. If the House approves the report, the bill goes to the Governor's desk for her signature. At that time, she signs the bill into law or she may veto individual line items. [7.4.1](#).

Chippewa hockey game benefits March of Dimes



Thirty-six kids and 25 adults participated in the third Annual Father/Son/Daughter Hockey Game for the Chippewa Correctional Facility on

March 8, 2004. The children, ranging in age from four to 17, received gift bags filled with hockey cards, hockey pucks, water bottles, frisbees, candy and gatorade. All participants joined in a pizza party after the game and received a t-shirt. Proceeds from the game went to the March of Dimes in conjunction with the March of Dimes law enforcement hockey tournament held in Sault Ste. Marie *f.y.i.*

The Michigan Corrections Association, the state affiliate of the American Correctional Association, is seeking corrections professionals with grant writing experience who would be willing to help MCA put together a one-day workshop on the fundamentals of grant writing. The target date is this summer or fall. Interested persons should contact Susan Davis, Acting Warden, Robert Scott Correctional Facility at 734-459-7400x204 or davisss@michigan.gov.

Pine River staff saves a life



RN Cynthia
Simon

During lunch in the employee breakroom at Pine River Correctional Facility, a piece of food became lodged in the throat of RUO David Seales. RN Cynthia Simon was in the employee break room at the time, noticed that RUO Seales was unable to clear his throat and acted quickly using the Heimlich maneuver to dislodge the food.

“Her professional skills and calm demeanor possibly saved my life. I would like to acknowledge her quick and effective actions and publicly thank her,” said RUO Seales.

“RN Simon’s professionalism not only reflects positively on the Pine River Correctional Facility, but on the Michigan Department of Corrections as a whole,” said Warden Jan Trombley. *f.y.i.*

FOA Region I joins Project Crusader

Project Crusader, (Crime Reduction Utilizing Statistical Analysis, Data Evaluation, and Response Strategies), began in February, 2004, in the city of Detroit. The Initiative is a collaborative effort on the part of the Detroit Police, Wayne County Sheriffs, Department of Corrections, State Police, US Attorney's Office, and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms. The goal of the program is to combine resources to collect and analyze relevant data for the purposes of implementing enforcement activities that will result in the reduction of serious and violent crimes within each precinct.

"By combining resources for all the involved departments we will simultaneously work on narcotics and morality related street enforcement, violent fugitive apprehension, aggressive enforcement of traffic laws and ordinances in problematic areas," Bob Poikey, FOA Region I Administrative Assistant, said.

The Initiative will also include the immediate investigation and arrest of illegal gun traffickers and the intense supervision checks of registered sex offenders and others on probation and parole.

Corrections has played a large roll in the actual facilitation of data with the assistance of DIT employee Celina Kosier. Kosier has been key in assisting Administrative Assistant Poikey in drafting spreadsheets to share pertinent information for Crusader on offenders under supervision with Region I – Field Operations Administration.

As part of the program, Region I – FOA also conducts homecalls on actively supervised offenders along with Wayne County Sheriff's Deputies and Officers from the Detroit Police Department. Some of these homecalls have resulted in arrests and FOA - Region I staff have played a key roll in responding.

While conducting a homecall on one parolee, Agent Eugene Wardford along with a Detroit Police Investigator and a Wayne County Sheriff's Deputy, took the offender into custody for violation of parole. The parolee answered the door with a strong scent of marijuana on him. When the parolee was questioned regarding the smell, he admitted to smoking marijuana. Agent Wardford informed the parolee that the action was a violation of his parole. A search ensued and a round of .38 caliber ammunition was found along with a loaded rifle magazine which appeared to fit an AK-47. The parolee was handcuffed and transported and a detainer was placed.

During another homecall, the team went to the residence and a family member informed Special Operations Agent Eugene Wardford that the parolee, who was wanted for a parole violation, was hiding in the basement. The parolee was taken to the 9th precinct of the Detroit Police Department without incident and a detainer was lodged.

As Project Crusader continues additional special operations team members have volunteered including: Carrie Skibinski, Carmalete Daniels, Michael Hawthorne, Tim Metcalf, Mark Titus, Sheryl Kerr-Poikey, Nicole Williams, and Ryan Smith. **7.4.7.**

Tim Metcalf



Michael Hawthorne



*Nicole Williams
Carmalete Daniels*



Mark Titus



*Eugene Wardford
Ryan Smith*



Carrie Skibinski



Celina Kosier

